

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO AUCTION LONGHORNS IN NEBRASKA AND OKLAHOMA

Texas longhorns, living legends of the old great cattle drives, will be auctioned at Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge near Cache, Oklahoma, on September 18, and at Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Valentine, Nebraska, on October 21, the Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife announced today.

The sales of 104 longhorns at Wichita Mountains and 50 at Fort Niobrara will reduce herds to range capacities. Both mature animals and calves will be sold.

Longhorn ancestry is traced back to Spain, but natural selection and tough terrain molded a distinct American breed, the oldest breed of cattle on the continent. Adapting to the rugged Southwestern environment, longhorns contributed significantly to economic development of post-Civil War Texas.

They became almost extinct after being replaced as beef producers by meatier breeds about 1900. The herd at Wichita Mountains was established in 1927. In 1936, six calves were moved to Fort Niobrara to start another herd.

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